Route 7
Frederick, Md. 21701

October 18, 1967

The Editor, PLAYBOY
Chicago, Illinois

Sir:

Among the major magazines - indeed, all the major media - to date PLAYBOY alone upholds the tradition of the free press in providing Jim Garrison an opportunity to respond to the distortions, libels, misrepresentations and manufactures with which his vital investigation into the New Orleans aspects of the Kennedy assassination has been unwelcomed. Particularly because I am alone among those investigating and writing on this subject to have conducted my own investigation and written a book on it (OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS: CASE FOR CONSPIRACY WITH THE CIA), I am especially gratified at your fairness. It is a public service. The country and the effort to recapture the national honor and integrity owe you sincere thanks.

However, Garrison was precluded from discussing what he would take to court. To a large degree, your readers will find that in OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS - if they can find that book! Typical of the effort to suppress that which does not agree with the official fairy tale, the publisher is denied his normal distribution. Even the New Orleans wholesaler declines to carry it. This, we are told, is the free press, this the proof of freedom to write and publish!

Back in April and May, when I was the first writer to testify before the grand jury, I spent enough time working with Garrison and his staff to become convinced that they represent the great and honorable tradition of public servants. They work seven days a week, nights - whenever they must. I worked with Garrison several nights until after 1 a.m. He and his staff are dedicated, sincere and, I am convinced from my own work, right.

The converse of the popular fiction is true: His witnesses are being intimidated, not those opposing him. Of this I also have personal knowledge. I have and publish evidence that the FBI is among those making threats.

That the New Orleans District Attorney has not been deterred by the official campaign against him is to his credit. It is spearheaded by the Attorney General, who is now quoted as suggesting he may prosecute Garrison. The President of the United States lends the weight of his office. That Garrison has not allowed his work to be hidden by the coordinated, official, video and syndicated whitewashes is further to his credit. Those who seek to frustrate what he has undertaken underestimate his courage and dedication.

Often overlooked in the proper concern for the preservation of the rights of the accused ~~are~~ the equally great need for the preservation of the rights of society. A free and fair trial means not only freedom and fairness for the accused. It also requires that society be

able to enforce its laws, to punish crime. Garrison did not initiate the publicity about his investigation. I am among those who knew of it for a considerable length of time before it was first reported in the New Orleans States-Item of February 17, 1967. It this is clear that the ensuing publicity was not initiated by those to whom the Warren Report is official fiction. The result, and I believe the intent, of this publicity campaign has been to prejudice the public mind against Garrison's case. The effect is the prejudicing of all potential jurors. The intent of those responsible is to try and make it impossible for Garrison to get his case into court and then, should he succeed, to make conviction of Clay Shaw impossible or, at best, more difficult. How shocking it is to find that the Attorney General of the United States, from before he assumed office, has been leading the pack!

This makes me particularly apprehensive because the shabby pretense of an investigation was largely by the FBI, which is under the Attorney General. That this was not an investigation but a fakery intended to make credible what was false I have exposed in all four of my thus far published books (WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT; WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVER-UP; PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES; and OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS). The deliberate refusal of the FBI to collect those assassination pictures it knew existed, its determination not to interview those it knew took pictures until avoidance presented a greater hazard, even its misrepresentation of those pictures it had forced upon it that destroy the built-in verdict with which the government began, are thoroughly documented in PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH.

The FBI doctors pictures that prove Oswald's innocence. The Attorney General assails the New Orleans District Attorney who conducts his own, independent investigation.

We are in deep trouble.

A President of the United States has been murdered and consigned to history with the dubious epitaph of a fake inquest. Garrison alone among public officials still seeks the truth. His reward is an enormous concerted official and unofficial campaign of slander and personal vilification.

Because you gave him the opportunity to present the little he properly might of the other side, we are all in your debt.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg